

Abstract

A cervical intervertebral prosthesis comprises a lower anchoring plate and an upper anchoring plate (11, 12) with a prosthesis core (10) arranged between them to create an articulated connection. The anchoring plates (11, 12) are designed to bear with their anchoring plate surfaces on adjacent vertebral bodies. According to the invention, at least one anchoring plate surface (11, 12) comprises a rib-like projection (18) which can be used to engage in the vertebral body with a form fit. Moreover, in order to produce a corresponding recess in the vertebral body, the invention proposes an instrument comprising a handle, a stem, and a head part, and with an excavating element that can be retracted into the head part. This permits considerably improved securing of the cervical intervertebral prosthesis against unintended movement. The medullary canal running along the posterior margin of the vertebral column is in this way protected from damage.